

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE: Tucson Field Office

NEPA/TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-2014-0018-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Titan Missile Site #12 Interpretive Site Development

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T12S R9E SEC 20 SW1/4 NW1/4; access road across Asarco property

T12S R9E SEC 20 NW1/4 SW1/4; withdrawal land, waterman peak road and titan site access road

T12S R9E SEC 19 NE1/4 SE1/4, SE1/4 SE1/4, NW1/4 SE1/4, SW1/4 SE1/4; site access road, parking improvements and interpretive paths and signing

APPLICANT (if any): U. S. Air Force (USAF)

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures that are part of the Proposed Action.

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to interpret the former Titan II Missile Site 12 for public use on the Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM).

In 2012, the United States Air Force (USAF) identified a desire to relinquish the 328 acres back to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), as the USAF no longer had a requirement for the property. The BLM and USAF have been collaborating to develop an interpretive program for the site to relate its significance and role in the Cold War as part of the IFNM's interpretation efforts.

Vision

Adapt and re-use the decommissioned Titan II Missile site and access road for public use, with self-guided, on-site interpretive exhibits relating the site's significance.

Overall Goals and Objectives

- Manage and interpret the former Titan II Missile site for public use as one of the IFNM public use sites and areas, subject to the management direction in the IFNM Resource Management Plan (2013) and 43CFR8300 regulations.
- Utilize visible remnants of the missile site installation, in conjunction with site maps and other interpretive materials, to interpret the significance of the site.
- Designate on-site pathways, and design for minimal improvements and maintenance to accommodate public use.
- Install four interpretive panels, each developing specific themes related to the site's significance. Three of the panels will stand-alone and relate themes that are applicable to the system of missile sites generally, and to the significance of the project site in relation to the system. One panel will relate the importance of the IFNM and the history of use in the area from prehistoric times.
- Maintain the existing access road for public use, and provide adequate turnaround and parking spaces.
- Install site identification, directional, regulatory, and traffic control signs.
- Develop partnerships for the interpretation and maintenance of the site.
- Complete the site improvements and interpretive signing by the end of April 2016.
- Conduct a commemorative ribbon cutting ceremony with special guests on a date to be determined by the BLM and USAF.

Project Description

Utilize visible remnants of the missile site installation in the interpretive plan for the site, in conjunction with site maps and other interpretive materials. The locations of all improvements are shown on Map 1.

- **Feature Markers:** Small signs will be installed at visible surface features and subsurface features to identify them and their historic purpose. Between 5 and 10 markers will be used to designate features or locations of components.

Designate on-site pathways, and design for minimal improvements and maintenance to accommodate public use.

- Approximately 3,200 ft. of paths be improved, forming loops routed past missile site features; the paths will be graded and surfaced with gravel, and designed to meet accessibility standards.

Install four interpretive panels, each developing specific themes related to the site's significance.

- Wayside exhibits will be 48" by 60" in size, designed to be displayed in landscape format, and installed so they can be viewed from a vehicle on the driver's side, and by a person standing in front of the exhibit. The exhibit panels will be installed on wayside steel structures angled at 30 to 45 degrees, at designated locations.
- *Interpretive Themes*
 - a. The Cold War and the Titan II Missile System:
 - Political, social and cultural conditions leading to inception, development and deployment of the Titan II Missile nuclear defense program
 - Engineering, construction, and operational environment of the missile site installation; the array of missile sites in the local areas during its operational cycle, scale, scope, magnitude and significance of nuclear weapons for strategic defense purposes
 - Changes in global cultural, social, and political climate; conditions leading to international treaties and decommissioning and removal of the Titan II missile system; removal and disposal of system components and related challenges
 - Role of the local missile site: Selection, development, operation and decommissioning of the installation at this site, and its relationship to other sites in the local system; identification of the Missile Museum (571-7) located 20 miles south of Tucson (Sahuarita); status of decommissioned installations and future use
 - b. History of land use from prehistoric times to the designation of a national monument:
 - Purpose and information regarding the IFNM and the BLM's System of Public lands
 - History of use of the area
 - Sensitive species awareness and protection information will be provided in the kiosk or the interpretative panels.

Use the existing access road for public access, and provide adequate turnaround and parking spaces. Improvements to the road include Road Maintenance:

- The existing two lane paved access road from the Waterman Peak Road (Pioneer quarry access) to the site will be maintained (approx. 2,500 ft.). The asphalt pavement would be ripped with a dozer or motor grader, broken up and re-spread on the roadbed as part of the subgrade. The prepared subgrade would be capped with an aggregate driving surface.

This is the most cost-effective option and was used for development of the cost analysis. The USAF agrees with this option. Encroaching vegetation will be pruned or trimmed to provide adequate side and overhead clearance. Slash will be chipped and used for ground mulch in revegetation treatment areas.

Road Construction:

- Approximately 450 ft. of new gravel road will be constructed at the site to provide maneuvering space, and to provide parking areas.
- Site Paths: Approximately 3,200 ft. of paths be improved, forming loops routed past missile site features; the paths will be graded and surfaced with gravel, and designed to meet accessibility standards. The paths will be designed and maintained to provide administrative vehicle access for maintenance and repairs, and ongoing site management.

Install site identification, directional, regulatory, and traffic control signs.

- Site identification, and stop signs at the Avra Valley intersection.
- Directional and stop signs at the Titan Site road intersection.
- Speed limit signs on Waterman Peak and Titan Site roads
- An information kiosk will be installed at the existing paved parking turnout, at the end of the paved road. The kiosk will be used to post general Monument visitor information, rules and ethics, and emergency information. Sensitive species awareness and protection information will be provided in the kiosk or the interpretative panels.

Project Design Features

- Wood rat middens, caliche caves, and animal ground dens will be avoided during implementation of the project.
- An ecological site monitor will be present during implementation. Monitor will be provided with known locations of sensitive species within the project area. During all grading, surfacing and graveling operations, monitor will ensure that desert tortoises are moved from harm's way following current Arizona Game and Fish desert tortoise handling guidelines.
- All staff working on the project will be briefed on the characteristics and sensitivity of desert tortoise habitat, and will follow guidelines for construction in desert tortoise habitat (Guidelines for Handling Desert Tortoises During Construction Projects, AGFD guidelines and also BLM guidelines).

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: Ironwood Forest National Monument Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: February 2013

☒ The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): **CL-010:** Sites managed for public use will be protected and developed as interpretive exhibits in place, or for related educational and recreational uses.

2.2.15 Recreation Management Zone Objectives:

2.2.15.1 Roaded Natural RMZ Objectives:

1. **Recreation Niche:** Scenic Sonoran Desert touring on improved roads for viewing the natural landscape, with wayside stops for interpretation of the Monument's natural and cultural history, and access to dispersed recreation opportunities.

Primary Activities: Driving passenger car and a variety of other motorized recreational vehicles for viewing scenery and points of interest. Stopping at wayside interpretive sites and overlooks to view scenery or wildlife.

☐ The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Ironwood Forest National Monument Resource Management Plan, February 2013

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- 1. Is the proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?** The proposed action is essentially similar to an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document (IFNM RMP/EIS). The following decisions in the IFNM Approved RMP are pertinent to this action: CL-010: Sites managed for public use will be protected and developed as interpretive exhibits in place, or for related educational and recreational uses. 2.2.15.1 Roaded Natural RMZ Objectives: 3. Facilities: Stabilized, improved and maintained roads and trails, parking turnouts, traffic control, interpretive signs/exhibits, trailheads to side trails. Minimal improvements provided for visitor convenience, and public health and safety. 7. Accessibility: Motorized vehicles and non-motorized vehicles licensed and insured to operate on a public road under Arizona law (Arizona Revised Statute Title 28). Design vehicle is passenger car and recreational vehicle. Recreation sites and/or activity areas barrier free for persons with mobility impairments. AA-153: For all RMZs, provide on-site signing, where needed, for visitor information, regulatory, or interpretation purposes in accordance with RMZ setting prescriptions; provide portal information facilities at Monument access points (such as informational kiosks); maintain facilities to levels appropriate to the RMZ; and, develop materials and designs to blend in with the natural landscape.

2. **Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?** Yes, the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document is appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values. Field Surveys were conducted June 13, 2014 for Sonoran Desert tortoise and Nichol's Turks head cactus by BLM staff. The results of the survey for desert tortoise were detailed in a report on the biological survey with recommendations for conservation actions to avoid effects to the tortoise or its habitat. Based on the surveys and review of the Biological Opinion for the IFNM-RMP and F&WS IPAC system, a T&E effects determination form was filled out documenting analysis of potential effects to T&E species. Cultural resource clearances were completed for the project on June 4, 2014.

3. **Is the existing analysis valid in light of new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?** Yes, the RMP/EIS is only 1 year old and no new species or critical habitat have been listed or designated that occur in the project area since the RMP ROD was signed.

4. **Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?** Yes, the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of developing interpretive sites (decision CL-10), which includes proposed and similar actions, are discussed in environmental effects section in chapter 4 of the Proposed RMP/EIS.

5. **Are there public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?** Yes, there was public involvement and interagency participation in the EIS process.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource/Agency Represented</u>
Darrell Tersey	Natural Resource Specialist	BLM
Francisco Mendoza	Outdoor Recreation Planner	BLM
Amy Sobiech	Archaeologist	BLM

John Swift	Supervisory Maint. & Ops	BLM
Claire Crow	Monument Manager	BLM
Viola Hillman	Field Office Manager	BLM
Kathy Pedrick	Special Assistant to State Dir.	BLM
Tim Shannon	District Manager	BLM
Keith Hughes	Natural Resource Specialist	BLM
Leslie Uhr	GIS Specialist	BLM
Maria Williams	Range Monitor	U of A

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

/s/ Darrell Tersey	12/05/2014
Darrell Tersey, Natural Resource Specialist	Date
/s/ Amy Markstein	12/05/2014
Amy Markstein, Planning & Environmental Coordinator	Date
/s/ Karen Simms	12/12/2014
Karen Simms, Acting Field Manager	Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.